

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 16, 20, 21, and 22 are currently pending. Claims 16 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-15 and 17-19 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 6, 8, 12-16, 18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0168987) in view of Mardhekar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,528,558).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang combined with Mardhekar in further view of Sudo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,223,058).

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang combined with Mardhekar in further view of PePe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,668).

Claim 19 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of canceled claims 18 and 19 and should be in condition for allowance. Claim 20 has been amended to depend from amended claim 16.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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